Mobile phones: the new talking drums of Everyday Africa? Workshop 9-10 December, 2010



Program Day 1

Thursday 9th December:

Place of venue: FSW, 1A-01*

9.15 – 9.45 Introduction and welcome Mirjam de Bruijn & Inge Brinkman

9.45 - 10.00 Opening of the workshop by the ASC Director Ton Dietz

10.00 - 10.45

Keynote: Herman Wasserman: 'Mobile phones, ICTs and everyday African democracy: transmissions and transgressions'

Discussant: Michael Rowlands

10.45 – 11.00 BREAK

11.00 – 12.15 State and media

- ♣ Mobile phones in the hands of citizens more than just a tool?: Marjan Besuijen (HIVOS)
- ♣ Ghetto Radio: Maarten Brouwer (Ghetto Radio)
- ♣ Democracy and governance technologies in Casamance, Senegal: Fatima Diallo (University of Leiden/ASC, PhD)

Discussant: Francis Nyamnjoh (University of Cape Town)

12.15 – 13.00 ICT and local politics

- ♣ Mobile campaigning: Emer Beamer (Butterfly Works)
- ♣ Mobieltje onmisbaar in verslaggeving: Bertil van Vugt (Africa Interactive)
- ♣ Mobile reporting as a child abuse detection tool: Olivier Nyirubugara (Voices of Africa Media Foundation)

Discussant: Bart Barendregt (University of Leiden)

13.00 -14.00 LUNCH

14.00 – 15.15 Technology and development/knowledge and society

- ♣ Uganda: outsourcing contracts, development of technology in the countries: Bart van der Linden (Giarte)
- ♣ NICE A growing business of ICT services for development in The Gambia: Lonneke Craemers (NICE)
- ♣ The Cheetah Generation and the rise of the local African entrepreneur: Ben White (HIVOS)

Discussant: Erik Kruse (Ericsson)

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- 15.15 16.00 Dialogues between Development and Communication
 - ♣ Rethinking Communication Research and Development in Africa: Francis Nyamnjoh (University of Cape Town)
 - ♣ Beyond markets for mobiles: the development sector and pro-poor impacts of ICTs: Ben Garside (IIED)

Discussant: Jessica Teunissen (Oxfam Novib)

16.00 – 16.15 BREAK

16.15 – 17.30 Calling in/from Africa

- ♣ "Hello! The house is following the conversation:" The use of ICTs for social networking amongst the Pinyin and Mankon in Cape Town and Holland: Henrietta Nyamnjoh (University of Leiden/ASC, PhD)
- ♣ The ICT in the service of Transnational Migration: The Cell phone and the Nigerian Immigrants in Anglophone Cameroon: Tangie Fonchingong (Counterpart institute Cameroon: University Buea)
- ♣ Phones, mobility, borders and limits: Inge Brinkman & Mirjam de Bruijn (ASC) Discussant: Michael Rowlands (University College London)

18.30 – 20.30 DINNER

^{*} Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Pieter de la Court Gebouw, Wassenaarseweg 52, 2333 AK Leiden, http://www.socialsciences.leiden.edu/publicadministration/press/location.html



Morning Program Day 2 (closed session)

Friday 10th December:

Place of venue: FSW, 1A-47*

9.00 – 9.15 Introduction and welcome

9.20 – 10.15 ICT and entrepreneurship, daily life

- ♣ ICT integration as a process of social innovation: how to ensure that ICT leads to development goals: François Laureys (IICD)
- ♣ Empowerment or exclusion? ICT appropriation in rural Mali: Hanneke Post (WUR, PhD)

Discussant: Ben Garside (IIED)

10.15 – 10.30 BREAK

10.30 – 11.15 Business and ICT development

- ♣ Mobile telephony: strategies and future planning, Erik Kruse (Ericsson)
- ♣ A word from the Former Corporate Communications Director Celtel/Zain, Martin de Koning (UPC)

Discussant: Bart van der Linden (Giarte)

11.15 - 12.15 ICT and political activism

- ♣ Freedom Fone Zimbabwe, Brenda Burrell (Freedom Fone)
- ♣ Cross-media and human rights, Simeon Oriku (The Kuyu Project)
 Discussant: Herman Wasserman (Rhodes University, SA)

12.15 – 13.15 LUNCH

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Afternoon Program Day 2 (open session)

Friday 10th December:

Place of venue: FSW, 1A-47*

13.30 – 14.00 Introduction and welcome
 Calling for equality? Communication technologies and social hierarchies
 Mirjam de Bruijn and Inge Brinkman

14.00 – 14.45 Connecting Dreams: Success/failure, crossing borders and new ICT (film)

Sjoerd Sijsma

14.45 – 15.30 Summary and critical reflections Francis Nyamnjoh

15.30 – 15.45 BREAK

15.45 – 17.00 Plenary Debate

Plenary debate with theses from: Herman Wasserman, Ben Garside, Martin de Koning, Brenda Burrell, Erik Kruse, Jessica Teunissen
Chair: Mirjam de Bruijn

17.30 – 18.30 DRINKS

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Workshop Framework

In the discussions on development and technology, 'access' is often an important issue: at times it is even assumed that ensuring access to new ICTs will automatically lead to 'development'. And indeed, we have heard of many examples in which access to new ICT leads to empowerment. Fishermen around Lake Victoria receive price information through their mobile phones so that they are less vulnerable to economic exploitation, women in various countries in Africa use new ICT to expand their communication possibilities in spite of restrictive norms in terms of mobility, versatility in new ICTs may offer youth new powers vis-à-vis the community elders. This argument is also used in a wider context; access to information and

This argument is also used in a wider context: access to information and communication is assumed to lead to a world in which distances are disappearing. The world will become a global village in which in principle all people have equal access to information and geographical place no longer plays a role.

Yet mere access to ICT is not enough to 'develop' and an increase in mobility is no guarantee for empowerment; the relations between technology and development need to be qualified. Thus James Ferguson (2006) has argued that the new ICT and the new forms of mobility will lead to new hierarchical structures, which he labels 'global shadows'. He expects that hierarchical relations will not disappear as expected, but rather be reproduced on a larger scale. This will lead to a new underdeveloped world and to new forms of poverty; no longer located in specific geographical regions but spread into the world.

This shows that access cannot be viewed independently of socio-political relations. A range of questions come to the mind:

- Whose development is involved?
- By who are new ICT appropriated?
- In what ways are local hierarchies reinforced through new ICTs or new hierarchies created?
- Are new ICTs used in politically repressive systems?
- Do new ICTs function in unequal global socio-economic relations?
- How does access to ICT interfere with societies that are increasingly spread over the world (migrant communities, etc)?

These questions suppose a qualitative approach: statistics indicating the number of people having access to new ICTs do not suffice; forms and contents of communication require study as well. In this workshop we are especially interested whether or not experiences 'in the field' influenced prior lines of thinking and your own assumptions regarding empowerment were readjusted on the basis of end-users' perspectives.



Participants

For this workshop we have invited people/organizations from various fields of involvement in the relationship between ICT and African societies. During the workshop the participants will present their field of involvement with ICT and include their visions on the achievements. These will be followed by a discussion in line with the questions raised in the text above.

A. Academic sector

IIED, Ben Garside

Ben Garside is a member of the Sustainable Markets Group of the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) in London. ben.garside@iied.org, www.iied.org

Rhodes University, South Africa, Herman Wasserman

Herman Wasserman is Professor in the School of Journalism and Media Studies at Rhodes University, South Africa, where he also heads the Research Unit for Media in the Global South. He edits the journal *Ecquid Novi: African Journalism Studies*. Recent books include *Tabloid Journalism in South Africa: True Story!* (Indiana UP) and the edited volume *Popular Media, Development and Democracy in Africa* (Routledge). h.wasserman@ru.ac.za, h.wasserman@ru.ac.za, h.wasserman@ru.ac.za,

University of Cape Town, Francis Nyamnjoh

Francis Nyamnjoh is one of the coordinators of the 'Mobile Africa revisited' program team as well as Professor of Anthropology at the University of Cape Town in South Africa. francis.nyamnjoh@uct.ac.za, http://www.nyamnjoh.com/

University College London, Michael Rowlands

Michael Rowlands is a Professor at the Department of Anthropology and teaches cultural heritage and museum anthropology. m.rowlands@ucl.ac.uk
http://www.ucl.ac.uk/anthropology/staff/m_rowlands

Wageningen University (WUR), Hanneke Post

Hanneke Post is a PhD student at WUR. Her research focuses on the contribution of ICT to networking possibilities of farmer's collectives in Mali. hanneke.post@wur.nl http://mobileafricarevisited.wordpress.com/

Radboud University Nijmegen, Joris Schapendonk

Joris Schapendonk is a PhD student at the Human Geography Department. His research focuses on the migration processes of sub-Saharan African migrants moving towards Europe. <u>J.Schapendonk@fm.ru.nl</u> http://socgeo.ruhosting.nl/staff/48/

University of Leiden, Bart Barendregt

Bart Barendregt is a lecturer and researcher at Leiden University. His research focuses on the process of appropriation of mobile phone technology by marginalized groups, as part of a larger book project on the "Underbelly of Indonesian IT society". barendregt@fsw.leidenuniv.nl

http://www.fsw.leidenuniv.nl/ca-os/organisatie/stafleden/barendregt-bart

University of Leiden, Robert Ross

Robert Ross is Professor of African History at Leiden University. He is involved in research on the history of communication technologies. <u>R.J.Ross@hum.leidenuniv.nl</u> http://www.hum.leiden.edu/history/staff/rossrj.html

Counterpart institute Cameroon: University Buea, Tangie Fonchingong

Tangie Fonchingong is a visiting fellow at the African Studies Centre in Leiden. His research focuses on human mobility and more specifically on 'The Political Economy of Trans-national Mobility: The Case of the Nigerian migrants in Anglophone Cameroon'. Tangie is co-supervisor of two PhD students linked to the 'Mobile Africa Revisited' program.

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Centre for African Studies (CASB) University of Basel, Divine Fuh

Divine Fuh received a PhD from the Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Basel in 2009. He was also affiliated to the Centre for African Studies in Basel (CASB). His PhD dissertation – Competing for Attention: Youth Masculinities and Prestige in Bamenda, Cameroon –addresses the question of how youth in an African City (Bamenda) cope with the many challenges that the weakness of the state, the economy and the many aspects of the ongoing processes of globalization and shifts in gender identities provoke. While in Basel he has also served as lecturer in social anthropology and, coordinator for the Institute of Social Anthropology's Joint Research Group on Visual Culture and Political Transformations.

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WOTRO, Martijn Wienia

Martijn Wienia is program officer with the WOTRO Science for Global Development division of the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) in The Hague. He holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology from Leiden University and his thesis "Ominous Calm" (2009) focused on post-conflict calm in Northern Ghana. His main research interests are peace-building, tolerance and sovereignty in West Africa. m.wienia@nwo.nl, www.nwo.nl

ASC, Mirjam de Bruijn

Mirjam de Bruijn is an anthropologist and Professor of African Studies at Leiden University. She is also a senior researcher the African Studies Centre and Director of the Research Masters 'African Studies' (LU/ASC). In addition, she has been made an Honorary research Fellow at the University of Cape Town in South Africa. She is one of the coordinators of the 'Mobile Africa revisited' program. bruijnm@ascleiden.nl http://mobileafricarevisited.wordpress.com/

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http://mobileafricarevisited.wordpress.com/

ASC, Inge Brinkman

Inge Brinkman is a Post-doc researcher at the ASC in Leiden. She is one of the coordinators of the 'Mobile Africa revisited' program. Her main research focus is on Angola/Namibia. IBrinkman@ascleiden.nl, http://mobileafricarevisited.wordpress.com

ASC, Inge Butter

Inge Butter works as student-assistant for the Connections & Transformations research group at the ASC. She studied Cultural Anthropology & Sociology at the University of Leiden and is currently rounding of a study in Arabic Language & Culture at the same university. Butteric@ascleiden.nl

ASC, Henrietta Nyamnjoh

Henrietta Nyamnjoh is a PhD student at the African Studies Centre in Leiden. Her research focuses on how Cameroonian communities (Pinyin & Mankon) in Cape Town and Holland use ICTs to stay in touch with other migrant communities in their host country as well as with their home village. h_nyamnjoh@yahoo.com http://www.langaa-rpcig.net/_Henrietta-Mambo-Nyamnjoh_.html

ASC, Fatima Diallo

Fatima Diallo is a PhD student at the University Gaston Berger of Saint Louis in Senegal. The title of her research subject is 'The technologies of information and the communication and the construction of the State under the rule of law in Senegal'. diallofatimaster@gmail.com

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ASC, Barbara Gwanmesia

Barbara Tah Gwanmesia is a columnist, author, researcher and singer/recording artist whose interest in the proliferation of mobile telephony in Africa led to her research on the interrelationship between mobile telephony and daily life in Anglophone Cameroon. She now plans to investigate the way people in Anglophone Cameroon are negotiating insecurities and their perceptions of marginalization. bmgwanmesia@gmail.com

ASC, Ton Dietz

On 1 May 2010 Prof. dr. Ton Dietz became Director of the African Studies Centre and is also Professor in the Study of African Development at Leiden University. dietzaj@ascleiden.nl, www.ascleiden.nl

B. Media sector

Ghetto Radio, Maarten Brouwer

Maarten Brouwer is one of the initiators of *Ghetto Radio*. The organization sees radio as one of the most powerful and accessible forms of media in Africa, especially for those living in poverty in the slums. In the future they hope to engage more young researchers from the Netherlands in the debate on issues affecting African youth. Maarten.Brouwer@Ghettoradio.nl, www.ghettoradio.nl

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Eyeses, Sjoerd Sijsma

Sjoerd Sijsma is an independent filmmaker and the man behind Eyeses, a company producing conscious films and photo reports. He is responsible for most of the audiovisual footage taken within the 'Mobile Africa revisited' program. sjoerd@eyeses.nl, www.eyeses.nl

Freedom Fone, Brenda Burrell

Brenda Burrell lives in Harare and has been involved in civil society work since the late 1990s. She has been involved with computers and technical support since the early 1980s, and in 2001 established the online civil society portal, Kubatana.net with Bev Clark. Through Kubatana, Brenda has innovated with a variety of new media tools to increase ordinary Zimbabweans' access to civil society information. Brenda's current focus is Kubatana's Freedom Fone project, a software development initiative which integrates Interactive Voice Response (IVR), SMS & voice mail functionality, making it easy for organisations to share audio information with ordinary mobile phone users.

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Voices of Africa Media Foundation, Olivier Nyirubugara

Olivier Nyirubugara is a Rwandan-born Dutch media scholar and journalist. He is currently completing a PhD in Digital Media Studies at the University of Amsterdam. He studied American Literature (MA, 2002), Digital Media (MA, 2006) and has worked as journalist both in Africa and Europe since 2002. He has been the senior coach and trainer for Voices of Africa Media Foundation since 2007. He trains and coaches young Africa journalists (based in Africa) in mobile reporting, that is, making video reports using exclusively mobile phones.

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C. ICT business sector

Africa Interactive, Bertil van Vugt

Bertil van Vugt is Project Manager at Africa Interactive. Africa Interactive is an online media company with local reporters telling the African story in text, photo or video. bertil@africanews.com, http://www.africa-interactive.com/

Butterfly Works, Emer Beamer

Emer Beamer is Co-Founder, Research and Development Director of Butterfly Works in Amsterdam. She is a social designer and conceptor. Butterfly Works is a social design studio which focuses on using design for social change. Their aim is to trigger the building of sustainable businesses by sharing knowledge through serious media, social branding and experiential learning.

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Butterfly Works, Kersti Wissenbach

Kersti R. Wissenbach is currently working as Project Strategist for cross-media programs and Human Rights campaigning at Butterfly Works Amsterdam. She holds an MSc in International Development Studies from the University of Amsterdam

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where she conducted research on the impact of community radio on rural community development and empowerment in Upper West Ghana.

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BZRD, Taco de Nies

Taco de Nies has recently initiated the Strategic Design Agency, aimed at consulting organizations working to install broadband and internet services in developing countries. tacodenies@bzrd.eu, www.bzrd.eu

Ericsson, Erik Kruse

Erik Kruse is working as strategy advisor and media visionary in Ericsson, Sweden. <u>Erik.kruse@ericsson.com</u>, http://www.ericsson.com/thinkingahead/voices

Giarte, Bart van der Linden

Bart Van der Linden studied Information Sciences at Radboud University, Nijmegen and now Works with Giarte, a company that shares knowledge about ICT. info@bartvanderlinden.eu, http://giarte.com/

Netherlands African Business Council (NABC), Josine Hoogenraad

Josine Hoogenraad is Events Coordinator at the NABC in Den Hague. The NABC is an active organization of Dutch entrepreneurs that do business in Africa and through their activities promote sustainable development of the African continent. josine.hoogenraad@nabc.nl, www.nabc.nl

NICE International BV, Lonneke Craemers

Lonneke Craemers conducted anthropological research on ICT in Africa and now works for NICE. NICE International B.V. is a social venture located in Utrecht. NICE has developed a concept for solar-powered ICT service centers in developing countries which are operated by local entrepreneurs on a franchise-basis. Lonneke.Craemers@Nice-International.com, www.nice-international.com

UPC, Martin-Pieter de Koning

Martin Pieter de Koning was one of the founders of Celtel, an important mobile phone company in Africa. He is now involved in UPC but will shortly work in mobile telephony again. martinpdekoning@upcmail.nl http://nl.linkedin.com/pub/martin-pieter-de-koning/0/a22/a7

D. Development sector

Hivos, Ben White

Ben is Programme Officer ICT & Media at Hivos, focusing on the Technology & Entrepreneurship program. He is also Afrilabs champion and the founder of VC4Africa.biz. Weblog: www.ict4entrepreneurship.com Twitter: Zia505. bwhite@hivos.nl http://www.hivos.nl/

Hivos, Marjan Besuijen

Marjan Besuijen is Program Manager ICT & Media at Hivos, just returned from working in East and Southern Africa for the last 6 years, responsible for Hivos' ICT

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http://mobileafricarevisited.wordpress.com/

& Media global programme activities, founder of the the Tanzania Media Fund, www.tmf.or.tz and liason for Twaweza, www.twaweza.org. mbesuijen@hivos.nl, http://www.hivos.nl/

IICD, Francois Laureys

Francois Laureys works at the International Institute for Communication and Development were they "help local partners from the non-profit, public and private sectors to use ICT to meet their development goals in livelihoods, education, health and governance". FLaureys@iicd.org, www.iicd.org

The Kuyu Project, Simeon Oriku

Simeon is the founder and Executive Director of the Kuyu Project. The Kenyan based initiative aims to teach young African students how to use various forms of social media to make a positive impact in their communities. simeon@thekuyuproject.org https://thekuyuproject.org/community/, https://thekuyuproject.org/community/, https://thekuyuproject.org/community/, https://thekuyuproject.org/community/, https://thekuyuproject.org/

Oxfam Novib, Mieke Hartveld, Jessica Teunissen & Sophie Conin

Oxfam/Novib is a large Dutch development organisation that started its activities in the 1950s. mieke.hartveld@oxfamnovib.nl, http://www.oxfamnovib.nl/